



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/004,725

12/04/2001

Narayan Venkatasubramanyan

020431.0884

1188

53184 7590 02/12/2008
i2 TECHNOLOGIES US, INC.
ONE i2 PLACE, 11701 LUNA ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75234

EXAMINER

VAN DOREN, BETH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3623

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/12/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Advisory Action

1. The following advisory action is in response to the after-final communications filed 1/7/2008.
2. Applicant's arguments with regards to Kennedy et al. (U.S. 6,047,290) in view of Weber et al. (U.S. 2002/0156663) have been fully considered, but they are not persuasive. In the remarks, Applicant argues that Kennedy does not teach discretizing the time variables of the buffers, as per claim 8.

In response to argument (3), Examiner respectfully disagrees. Examiner relied upon Kennedy et al. to disclose a supply chain representation which includes a plurality of buffers, wherein the buffers have associated time variables. See figure 2, column 2, lines 39-65, and column 3, lines 7-32 and 40-65, column 5, lines 40-60, column 6, lines 1-15, and column 7, lines 30-50, wherein an optimized supply chain is produced by the planning system, where a quantity of items is described for each buffer based on time values. The optimized supply chain is produced by upstream and downstream planning, where producers are assigned to buffers to supply the items to the buffers. Weber et al. was relied on to teach using a linear programming program, approximating this problem using discretized variables to yield a plurality of discretized variables and by relaxing the constraint to yield a relaxed constraint and calculating an optimized solution supply plan for the approximated linear programming problem. Weber et al. does teaches approximating this problem using discretized variables to yield a plurality of discretized variables and by relaxing the constraint to yield a relaxed constraint and calculating an optimized solution supply plan for the approximated linear programming problem. Weber et al. discloses using finite and discrete values in the linear programming problem. Weber et al.

Art Unit: 3623

further disclose relaxing one of the constraints of this problem to be able to calculate an optimal solution, as well as both soft and hard constraints to the LP problem. Thus, the solution is approximated by the relaxation of constraints. See paragraphs 18, 27, 103, 120-1, and 170 and 106, 217.

Thus, the combination of Kennedy et al. and Weber et al. does teach and suggest the limitation, where Kennedy et al. explicitly discloses the supply chain representation with the appropriate values and Weber et al. specifically discloses discretizing such variables.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BETH VAN DOREN whose telephone number is (571)272-6737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tariq Hafiz can be reached on 571-272-6729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3623

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/B. V./

bvd

February 7, 2008

/Beth Van Doren/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3623